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U. S. Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

MEMPHIS MEETING ENDS CONFERENCES. Southern States gathered in Tennessee city last Monday and Tuesday -- in the last of the four regional agricultural defense conferences -- were optimistic about the region meeting 1942 food goals. Will increase production, chiefly milk, eggs and peanuts for oil. Southern peanuts to help offset drain on oil reserves next year. Problems discussed: market outlets for milk and eggs in areas where previously only enough produced for local needs; possible shortage crushing equipment for oil from peanuts. Possible shortage of fertilizer and some shortage of labor.

DEFENSE BOARDS WILL SEEK ANSWERS to these problems; will survey market outlets for increased production while contacting farmers on increases.

SOUTH BETTER OFF FOR LABOR than other sections. Unlikely serious shortage will develop soon.

FOOD FOR DEFENSE MEETINGS NOW HISTORY. All four pronounced successful by Department chiefs. Farmers in general responded very well; widespread conviction that food goals will be fulfilled despite production difficulties, and in some cases oversubscribed. Farmers realizing more and more that war has become our most serious business.

KANSAS CITY MEETING OCTOBER 9 will hear Under Secretary Paul H. Appleby and AAA Administrator tell British food needs. The two just back from England. Appleby to speak at banquet and Evans at mass meeting. Defense boards and others in 16 States expected to attend.

DEFENSE NEEDS FARMERS' SCRAP IRON; so campaign to get farmers to sell their scrap iron expected soon. Defense chiefs say there is large reservoir of old metal on U. S. farms.

STEEL NEEDS RISING FASTER THAN PRODUCTION: Increasing defense production (more battleships, guns, tanks, planes) rapidly cutting in on supplies earmarked for production of non-defense goods. SPAB struggling now with amount of steel that can be made available for manufacturing farm equipment. Manufacturers have supplied SPAB with estimate of how much they think they can sell. Figures from USDA Defense Board surveys on farm machinery needs also have been given to SPAB. At present they are trying to reconcile these two estimates with supplies of steel available. Indications point to somewhat smaller supplies than either of the estimates.

TO SUPPLEMENT PRIORITIES, FARM MACHINERY manufacturers will receive an allocation of steel. This is more direct method and is necessary to implement priorities plan. Cuts away more red tape and paper work. Manufacturer will know how much steel he will get and where he will get it. This is first time that SPAB is making an allocation to an industry. Details on plan are due to be completed next week, but may be a few days longer.

DEPARTMENT IS WORKING TOWARD ONE POINT -- to gear farm machinery program to meet needs of increased food production.

UNDER CONSIDERATION NOW is a campaign to repair farm machinery and equipment. There is unanimous agreement between the Department and SPAB that adequate replacement parts MUST & WILL be made available to keep present equipment in working condition. Program will be timed to begin after rush of fall harvests is over.